



## State of Maryland

### Advisory Council on Mental Hygiene/Planning Council

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor –, Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary, DHMH

## MARYLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON MENTAL HYGIENE/ PL 102-321 PLANNING COUNCIL

### Minutes

May 17, 2011

**Maryland Advisory Council Members:** M. Sue Diehl, Chair; Livia Pazourek, Charles Reifsnider, John Scharf, Anita Solomon

**Maryland Advisory Council Members Absent:** Richard Blair, Jaimi L. Brown, Michele Forzley, Mike Finkle, Joshana Goga, Edwin C. Oliver, Robert M. Pender, Vice-Chair; Anthony Swetz, Jr., Garth Thompson, Robert Turner, Sherrie Wilcox

Individuals highlighted as such are resigned members who have not yet been replaced.

**PL 102-321 Council Members Present:** Sarah Burns, Coordinator; Chicquita Crawford, Herb Cromwell, Lee Crump, A. Scott Gibson, Cindy Kauffman, Dan Martin, George Lipman, William Manahan, Cynthia Petion, Sarah Rhine

**PL 102-321 Council Members Absent:** Lynn Albizo, Carol Allenza, Terry Bohrer, Tracee Bryant, Peter Cohen, Lesa Diehl, Catherine Drake, Kate Farinholt, Vira Froehlinger, Gerri Gray, Victor Henderson, Diane Herr, Julie Jerscheid, Michael Lang, Sharon Lipford, Coordinator; Linda Raines, Sheryl Sparer, Jane Walker, Della Williams, Kathleen Ward

**MHA Staff Present:** Brian Hepburn, Robin Poponne, Tom Merrick, Iris Reeves

**Guests and Others:** Dennis McDowell, Mark Kim, Jackie Pettis, ValueOptions, Gerald Beemer, Shore Behavior Health

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c/o Mental Hygiene Administration

Spring Grove Hospital Center – 55 Wade Avenue – Dix Building – Catonsville MD 21228 – (410) 402-8473

TDD for Disabled – Maryland Relay Service (800) 735-2258

**Healthy People in Healthy Communities**

## **INTRODUCTIONS/ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

The meeting was called to order by Council Chair, Sue Diehl. Attendees introduced themselves and the minutes of the April 19, 2011 meeting were approved. Please note that approved minutes will be posted on MHA's Web site, [www.dhmh.state.md.us/mha](http://www.dhmh.state.md.us/mha). The Maryland Advisory Council on Mental Hygiene's link is listed under "Resources".

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Cynthia Petion thanked the Council for their participation in MHA's State Plan development meeting held on April 29<sup>th</sup>, at Oheb Shalom, in Baltimore. Approximately 70 representatives from various groups and/or agencies gathered to help shape the objectives/strategies for the plan. MHA received positive feedback on the process which included, in addition to the specific breakout groups, an introductory presentation on issues in the areas of co-occurring services, health care reform, and changes in the Mental Health Block Grant. Participants this year included leadership from the DHMH Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration as well as representatives from the substance abuse treatment community. A copy of the discussions and group recommendations will be sent to each participant.
- On June 21<sup>st</sup>, after the Joint Council meeting, the Planning Committee will meet at MHA's Mitchell Building, first floor conference room, to review the draft state mental health plan and to discuss elements of the "new" mental health block grant application. It is expected that a draft state mental health plan will be emailed to the Planning Committee by June 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Robin Poponne will coordinate in the near future a brief meeting of the agency representatives on the Joint Council and update a grid that highlights the liaison efforts between each agency and mental health promotion. Information on the previous grid will be provided to agency representatives prior to the meeting. The Planning Council is composed of representatives from 11 state agencies that partner with MHA in the successful operation of the PMHS.
- Additionally, the Council will begin, in June, its annual round of short presentations, 2-3 per meeting, by each agency member that will inform the Council of current agency activities.

## **THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Brian Hepburn, M.D., Executive Director of MHA, delivered the following report:

- Dr. Hepburn attended the first of two area NAMIWalks in Silver Spring on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Participation was lower than expected but the turn-out was still large considering the weather. DHMH Secretary Scharfstein is scheduled to read the Governor's citation for the 2<sup>nd</sup> NAMIWalks event on May 21<sup>st</sup>, which will be held at Rash Field, Inner Harbor, Baltimore.
- The Milbank Foundation will hold its conference on May 18, 2011 focusing on Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). Although FQHCs currently make up only 4% of the reimbursement claims for the PMHS, they are expected to increase their role in expanding access to affordable care under Health Care reform. Of the 16 centers in

Maryland, only nine have behavioral health services. DHMH hopes that all 16 will begin to offer these services.

- On May 11 through 13, the Maryland Addictions Directors Council (MADC) held a Behavioral Health Conference in Ocean City, Maryland, *Navigating the New Landscape*. This conference emphasized the partnerships with other organizations and agencies to build a strong and effective behavioral health care system in the state.
- Lissa Abrams, Deputy Director of Community Programs and Managed Care, retired in April. Daryl Plevy has been chosen to replace her in this position that oversees much of the activities related to the administrative services organization, fee-for-services system, and community programs. Ms. Plevy was formerly the Core Service Agency director for Montgomery County and is the current director of the Maryland Mental Health Transformation Office.
- Dr. Hepburn reported on budget issues for the third quarter of the fiscal year. The budget for state psychiatric facilities is expected to remain on track to match appropriation levels. MHA originally carried over a \$9 million deficit but spending for individuals who are uninsured was below appropriations which brought the deficit to the equivalent of \$7 million. Through increased enrollment in Medicaid through initiatives such as Primary Adult Care (PAC), we expect to cut costs by \$9 million this fiscal year. Continued attrition will partially help MHA to reduce its deficit by 2014. There is a \$20 million deficit in Medicaid as the system expanded beyond expectations - covering 30% more members through entitlements without funds added to the budget.

## **COUNCIL BUSINESS:**

Livia Pazourek voiced concern that with the SSI/SSDI rate remaining fixed and rent/utilities increasing and increased co-pays, food costs, etc, the current economy trends may render many individuals living in the community homeless. It was suggested that a letter from the Council be drafted to address these concerns during the next meeting.

## **HOUSING INITIATIVES UPDATE:**

### **Penny Scrivens, Housing Coordinator, MHA's Office of Adult Services**

Ms. Scrivens discussed the following housing initiatives that impact access to affordable housing for individuals in the PMHS:

- On May 9, 2011, Governor O'Malley, accompanied by Joshua Sharfstein, DHMH Secretary; representatives of the Weinberg Foundation; Ray Skinner, Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Secretary; and others announced the "Affordable Rental Housing Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities" initiative that includes Weinberg Foundation funding of \$1 million for two years. This program includes the following benefits:
  - Grant funds to cover capital costs in developments otherwise receiving DHCD financing from the tax credit program where developers are asked to dedicate a percentage of units to individuals across disabilities. DHCD will work with DHMH and Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) to ensure that

- units are made available to individuals with very-low income-below 25% AMI (average mean income).
- There are currently 1,500 permanent housing units, funded through tax credits, available across Maryland in scattered sites with connections to supports that will allow individuals to live independently and successfully. Different state agencies to include DHCD, DHMH, MHA, Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA), MDOD, etc. will work together to identify barriers that prevent individuals from accessing designated units.
- Organizations/agencies will also work with Project Managers to assist people with criminal backgrounds or credit issues. A steering committee chaired by DHCD is being established to monitor the Weinberg funding program. Judge George Lipman offered to attend a meeting to promote assisting individuals from the prison/corrections system.
- Partnerships such as this one will position Maryland to be competitive for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) new Section 811 program funding in 2012. Information about legislation that updates the Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities program can be found on the Technical Assistance Collaborative Web site at [www.tacinc.org](http://www.tacinc.org).
- MHA's Division of Planning has received Community Bond grant applications through DHMH's Office of Capital Planning, Budgeting, and Engineering and, along with MHA's Office of Adult Services Housing Coordinator, is responsible for the review of these FY 2013 applications. MHA prioritizes projects which provide, through construction or acquisition, affordable housing to individuals with mental illnesses and specifically emphasize efforts to further reduce hospital census.
- MHA has chaired the Residential Rehabilitation Program (RRP) Survey Group since 2008 with a goal to review and remove barriers to transitions from state hospitals to RRP's and from RRP's to the community. The RRP Survey Group has developed a manual for CSAs, hospitals, and providers to assist in the process and paperwork that will be posted on web sites of Community Behavioral Health Association of Maryland (CBH), MHA and Value Options. **Please see Attachment #1**

The meeting was adjourned.